



Questions for Act Two of *The Crucible*

1. What duty has Mary Warren been performing in Salem?
2. What does Elizabeth Proctor report to her husband about the trials in Salem? What does she urge John to do?
3. What gift does Mary Warren present to Elizabeth?
4. What ominous revelation does Mary Warren make about Elizabeth's reputation? How does this disclosure serve to make the quarrel between Elizabeth and John even more heated?
5. What are some of the ways in which John Hale questions Proctor and his wife about their religious faith? How do the Proctors answer each of the questions and allegations?

6. What theological argument does John Hale use to explain the causes of the events in Salem?

7. What conflict does John Proctor face at the end of the act?

8. Explain John Proctor's allusion as he tells Hale, "Pontius Pilate! God will not let you wash your hands of this!"

9. The end of this act hints that the most important conflict in the play will take place between two specific characters—a protagonist and an antagonist. Who is the protagonist? Who is the antagonist?

